

DIABOLICAL, SAID DARVILL, AND SO SAY ALL OF US

Wealdstone 7, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

A COLOURED footballer from Sierra Leone destroyed any hopes Wycombe Wanderers had of winning the Isthmian League title as they slumped to Amateur Cup holders Wealdstone. Wealdstone's substitute, Eddie Dillsworth, grabbed four second half goals which highlighted this seven goal drubbing of Wycombe.

How the name Wealdstone must stick in the Wanderers' throats! In November they crashed five goals past Wycombe's defence at Loakes Park and now on their home territory add another seven to the tally.

This was an abysmal performance from Wycombe. Their football looked stale and lacked imagination. By the finish they looked a very mediocre side. Everyone had an 'off day' from outside-left Paul Bates to goalkeeper John Maskell.

A downhearted Barry Darvill commented "What can I say, it was awful. There was no excuse for the way we played, it was absolutely diabolical. I told them after the match the only certain selection for Wednesday's game would be Tony Horseman".

Wycombe were in trouble straight from the kick-off and never really recovered. Within 80 seconds Wealdstone were ahead as Beck, presumably, played Lindsay 'onside' and the English international made no mistake sending Maskell the wrong way. It is debatable as to whether this goal should have been given, but certainly Lindsay looked offside when the ball was kicked.

TITLE LOST

This decision shattered Wanderers' confidence and one can say the league title was lost inside 80 seconds.

Wealdstone were immeasurably faster on the ball and their eager attack, well served by Lindsay and Townsend, continually harassed the Wycombe defenders into making mistakes.

Wycombe's defence back-peddled from the word 'go' while the forward line hardly existed. The attack lacked mobility and the Wanderers' only contribution to the goal feast came from Gale who had a couple of long range efforts fly wide.

After 19 minutes Wycombe were in deeper trouble as their rearguard was split wide open for the unmarked Childs to score. There seemed to be a glimmer of hope for a Wycombe revival when their main tormentor-in-chief Hugh Lindsay was injured in a goalmouth scramble. Little did anyone realise that his substitute Dillsworth would add the final nails in Wycombe's coffin.

Within a minute of the second period Wanderers fell further behind, when Dillsworth scored with his first kick of the match. It was all one way traffic and Wealdstone emphasised their superiority by getting two goals in a minute, both from Dillsworth, to complete his hat-trick in 25 minutes.

TIME TO COMMENT

However the last goal looked to be yards offside but the referee ignored the Wanderers' appeals. At this point it is an appropriate time to comment on Mr. K. W. Sutliff's handling of the match.

As a rule it is my policy never to criticise the most abused man in football. Heavens knows his job is difficult enough! However on this occasion I break my ruling—reluctantly.

It struck me Mr. Sutliff was never up with the run of play, an opinion shared by Barry Darvill, and that he let the later stages get out of control as petty fouls became commonplace. He missed two 'offside' goals and possibly a third by refusing to watch or consult his linesmen.

But all the same this was not the Wanderers' day. And two further goals from Childs in the 77th minute and Dillsworth, on the stroke of time, completed their afternoon of misery.